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International Court of Justice

H0067-0002

Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, Defendants, Sitting at Nurnberg, Germany on 22 February 1946, 1000-1045, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

THE MARSHAL: May it please the Court: The Defendant Fritzsche will be absent until further notice on account of illness.

GENERAL M.Y. RAGINSKY (Assistant Chief Prosecutor for the USSR): May it please Your Honors.

May I begin the submission of evidence to prove the charge that the defendants are guilty of the wanton destruction of towns and villages and other destruction. This charge is laid down in paragraph "C" of the 3rd Count of the Indictment.

We will present evidence which will prove that the destruction of towns and villages was carried out not as the result of any exigendes of war or military necessity.

We will submit evidence that deliberate destruction was carried out in accordance with the thoroughly elaborated plans of the Hitlerite Government and in accordance with the orders of the German military command; that the destruction of towns and villages, of industry and transportation, was an integral part of the conspiracy which aimed at the enslavement of the peoples of Europe and those of other countries, at the establishment of a world hegemony of Hitlerite Germany.

Everywhere the German fascist invaders came, they brought death and destruction. In the flames of fires perished the most valuable machines created by the genius of mankind, factories and dwellings were blown up which gave work and shelter to millions of people.

People themselves perished, especially old men, women and children, and those who were left without a roof over their heads and without any means of existence.

With particular ruthlessness the Hitlerites plundered and destroyed the towns and villages in the territories which they temporarily occupied, where, acting on direct oders of the German High Command, they created a "waste zone."

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As proof I will quote an excerpt from the note by V.M. Molotov, a document which has been submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-51/2. This excerpt the members of the Tribunal will find on page 3 of document book 7.

I quote:

"...An order seized not long ago near the town of Verkhovye, Orel Region, issued to the 512th German Infantry Regimant and signed by Colonel Schitnig stated with unparalleled brazenness: "A zone which in view of the situation may be evacuated must, after the withdrawal of the troops, present a waste... At points where complete destruction has to be achieved, all the houses are to be burnt, for which purpose they are first to be stuffed with straw, particularly stone houses. Structures of stone are to be blown up; this applies particularly to cellars. Measures for the creation of devastated zones are to be prepared beforehand and carried out relentlessly and completely."

So it was stated in the order to the 512th German Infantry Regiment, and I quote further:

"In razing our towns and villages, the German Command demands of its troops that a 'waste zone' be created in all Soviet localities from which the invaders are successfully expelled by the Red Army."

This order which is mentioned in Note I one which has been presented - the 512th Regiment order - is submitted as USSR Exhibit 168.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you know the date of it?

GENERAL RAGINSKY: The date of this order is 10 December 1941.

It is proved by this document that the German military command had ordered a ruthless and complete destruction of inhabited localities and that this destruction was planned and prepared in advance.

Concerning this question a large number of documents and facts are in the possession of the Soviet Prosecution. I will limit myself to reading into the record an excerpt from the sentence of the regional military Tribunal in the case against the German Officers, Lieut. General Bernhardt and Maj-General Hamann which I submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-90 (the respectiv excerpt will be found on page 23, 25 of document book 7).

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The military Tribunal established that the generals Bernhardt and Hamann had acted in accordance with the common plans and directives of the Supreme Command of the German Army and that they

> "had carried out a planned destruction of towns and inhabited localities and that it was laid down in advance that beside the destruction of industrial buildings, the destruction of hospitals, sanatoriums, educational institutions, museums, and other cultural educational institutions as well as dwelling houses, should be carried out. The latter were blown up without any advance notice being given to the Soviet citizens who lived there, as the result of which people also perished under the debris."

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As in the case of the destruction of inhabited localities, plants and factories, power-stations and mines were also destroyed with premeditation and malice aforethgought.

For confirmation of this statement I will draw the attention of the Tribunal to the report of the Extraordinary State Commission which was submitted as exhibit USSR-2, page 2 of document book 7.

In this report is quoted the secret directive of the Leader of the Department of Economics of the South Army Group of 2 September 1943 No. 1/313/43, which ordered the army leaders of economics and the leaders of economic parties to carry out a complete destruction of industrial establishments and stated in particular that "the destruction must be carried out not at the last moment when the troops will be engaged in combat or may be in retreat, but ahead ot fime."

The note by W. M. Molotov, the Peoples Commissar of Foreign Affairs of 27 April 1942, eloborates the question of these orders of the German Supreme Command and the way these orders were executed. This note was submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit USSR-51/3.

I will now quote several excerpts from Part II of the note just mentioned which is entitled "The devastation of towns and villages", excerpts which were not read into the record before. These excerpts will be found on pages 6 and 7, the reverse side, of the document book 92. I quote:

"By direct order of its High Command the German-fascist army subjects Soviet Towns and villages to unparalleled devastation upon seizing the latter and in the course of its stay there, setting fire to and otherwise destroying

-- I omit the end of page 4 and the beginning of page 5 of my presentation --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you ought to omit the first four lines on page 5.

GENERAL RAGINSKY: All right, sir. I omitted it inasmuch as this document was read into the record by me yesterday, but if you wish --

THE PRESIDENT: I don't remember that it was.

GENERAL RAGINSKY: Yes, I read this into the record yesterday.

(A short pause.)

THE PRESIDENT: I am told that -- and I am inclined to think so myself --

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-- that you did not read those lines, "from the 10th of October, 1941", at the top of page 5. I think you better read them. I am referring to the order of the 10th of October, 1941, which is set out in your exposé.

GENERAL RAGINSKY: I shall read this excertp from order given the Sixth German Army, 10th of October, 1941, signed by von Reichenau. This document is presented to the Tribunal as USSR No. 12. It reads:

"The troops are interested in extinguishing fires only in those building which are to be utilized for billeting military units. Everything else, including buildings, must be regarded as coming within the scope of a war of extermination."

At the end of 1941 and the beginning of 1942 the German Command issued a number of orders instructing the units of the German army to destroy in the course of their retreat under pressure of the Red Army everything that had remained unscathed during their occupation. Thousands of villages, whole city blocks and even entire cities are reduced to ashes, blown up or otherwise razed to the ground by the retreating German-fascist army. The organized destruction of Soviet towns and villages has become a special branch of the criminal activity of the German invaders on Soviet territory; special instructions and detailed orders of the German Command are devoted to methods of devastating Soviet populated centres; special detachments, trained in this criminal profession, are set up for this purpose.

Once again I refer to the order of the 512th Infantry Regiment of the 293rd German Division, presented already as USSR Exhibit 168, which is an exposition, covering seven printer's sheets, of the precisist possible plan for the methodical destruction of village after village, from December 10th to December 14th inclusive in the district in which the given regiment was stationed. This order which follows a model used throughout the German Army, states:

"Preparations for the destruction of populated centres must be carried out in such a way that: (a) no suspicions whatever are aroused among the civilian population prior to the announcement of it; (b) the destruction should begin at once, and be carried out by a single blow, at the appointed time... On the day in question particularly strict watch must be kept to see that no civilians

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leave the given place, especially not after the destruction has been announced'

An order of the Commander of the 98th German Infantry Division dated December 24, 1941, states, after listing sixteen Soviet villages designated to be burnt down:

"Stocks of hay, straw, foodstuffs, etc., are to be burnt. All stoves in dwelling houses are to be wrecked by placing hand grenades in them, thus making further use of them impossible. This order must in no case fall into the hands of the enemy."

...The following Order of January 3, 1942, issued by Hitler, is of the same nature. In the order it states:

"The present juncture demands that we hold on to every populated centre, that we do not retreat a single step, that we defend ourselves to the last man, to the last grenade. Every point that we occupy must be turned into a stronghold, the surrender of which we must not permit under any circumstances, even if it is outflanked by the enemy. If, however, the given point must be abondoned by us by order of the higher command, it is imperative that everything be burnt to the ground, the stoves blown up....

"Signed: Adolf Hitler."

Now did Hitler feel any embarrassment about publicly admitting that the devastation of Soviet towns and villages is the work of his army. In his speech of January 30, 1942, he declared: "In those places where the Russians have succeeded in making a breakthrough --

THE PRESIDENT: That order of January 3, 1942, signed by Hitler, is that in the official Soviet State Report? Where did it come from?

GENERAL RAGINSKY: This order is incorporated into a note -- quoted here - of Foreign Commissar For Foreign Affairs Molotov, the document which was presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 51, line 3.

THE PRESIDENT: That is Monsieur Molotov's report?

GENERAL RAGINSKY: Yes, this is a note of the Foreign Commissar, Molotov.

In the speech of the 30th of January 1942, Hitler stated:

"In those places where the Russians have succeeded in making a breakthroug and where they thought that they were once again occupying populated centers, these populated centers no longer exist; they are but a heap of ruins."

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While retreating from the Kuban region under the thrust of the Red Army, the German High Command worked out a detailed plan of operations which bore the code name of "Movement Krimhilde", and a large part of this plan, a whole section, was taken up by the plan of demolitions. I omit one paragraph of my presentation here.

This plan is mentioned in a 2-page secret document translatted by telegraph to the chiefs of higher staffs, is signed by Hitler and has the following notations on the first page: "Secret /A2371. 17 copies, 17th copy, No. 2686,43"

There are shown on the second page, under Hitler's signature, the number 430586/47 and the date 4.9.1943; on page 3 is the distribution as well as the following note: "Code name of operation for retreat from the Kuban region is 'Movement Krimhilde'."

The photostat copy of this plan ... listed as I-177, I now submit to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-115. It is contained on pages 31-33 of document book 7.

I will read into the record an excerpt from this document, that is to say, the 2nd paragraph of the order:

"2. Demolitions in case of retreat.

(a) All structures, quartering facilities, roads, cultural features, dams, etc. which may be useful to the enemy must be utterly destroyed.

(b) All railroads and highways will be dismantled or demolished respectively.

(c) All wood-covered corduroy roads will be made unuseable and destroyed.

(d) All drilling installations of the Kuban region will be demolished in their entirety.

(e) The harbor of Novorossiysk will be so demolished and blocked that its use by the Russian Navy will be prevented for a long period of time.

(f) Demolitions include mining of terrain.

(g) The enemy must gain possession of a completely depopulated waste land which will be useless for a long period of time and where for months to come mine explosions will take place".

Many other documents bear witness of similar orders, but may I draw the attention of the Tribunal to only two of them: I refer to an entry in the diary of the defendant Frank which particularly dwells on this subject, as well as a directive issued by the commanding general of 118th German Division which operate in Yugoslavia.

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In Frank's diary, which has already been submitted to the Tribunal, there is the following entry for April 17, 1944, contained in the volume which was started on 1st of March, 1944 and ends on 31st of May, 1944, dealing with the 'Work Conference at Cracow' on April 4th, 1944."

"It is important that the troops be given an order to abandon only scorched earth to the Russians. In cases when it becomes necessary to abandon a certain area to the Russians, no distinction should be made between the territory of the Government General and any other territories."

This excerpt will be found on page 45 of document book. May I remind the Tribunal that in USSR exhibit 132, which was an instruction issued to the 118th German Division over the signature of the German Major General Kuebler, which was captured in June 1944 by units of the Yugoslav Peoples Liberation Army, it was ordered that the troops treat the population "ruthlessly with cruel firmness" and to destroy the inhabited localities which were yielded.

May it please your Honors, in concluding this part of my presentation I deem it necessary to draw the attention of the Tribunal to one more circumstance.

The destruction of peaceful towns and villages was not only planned, not only carried out deliberately and with exceptional ruthlessness, but it was executed by special detachments created by the German High Command for that very purpose. By way of proof I will quote several excerpts which were not read into the record before from official government reports and the note of V. M. Molotov, People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs to the USSR.

This excerpt is found on page 9 of the document book. The date is 27 April, 1942. The USSR exhibit number is 51/3.

"The special detachments set up by the German Command for the purpose of setting fire to Soviet populated centers and exterminating the civilian population en masse as an accompaniment to the retreat

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of the Hitlerite army are perpetrating their bloodthirsty deeds with the cold-bloodedness of professional criminals. Thus, for instance, before their retreat from the village of Bolshekrepinskaya, Rostov region, the Germans sent special flame-throwing machines down the streets of the village, these machines setting fire to 1,167 buildings, one after the other. The big flourishing village was turned into a flaming bonfire which consumed the dwelling houses, the hospital, the school and various other public buildings. At the same time, without giving any warning, automatic-riflemen shot down the inhabitants who approached their burning houses, while other residents were bound, sprayed with gasoline and thrown into the burning buildings.

I omit part of page 9 of my presentation and pass on to the paragraph next to the last, the report of the State Extraordinary Commission which was presented to the Tribunal as USSR exhibit 46.

"In their insane hatred of the Soviet people which was caused by military defeats suffered, the Commanding General of the 2nd German Tank Army, General Schmidt, and Commander of the Orel region, the Military Commanders of the City, Major General Hamann, had created special demolition detachments for the destruction of towns, villages and collective farms of the Orel regions. These squads of plunderers and arsonists destroyed everything in the path of their retreat. They destroyed monuments of culture and works of art, burnt down towns and villages both large and small."

The Report of the Extraordinary State Commission on the "Crimes of the German Fascist invaders in the towns of Viazma, Gjatsk, and Sychevka of the Smolensk region and in the town of Rjav of the Kalinin region," submitted as exhibit USSR-279, contains the following statement:

"In Viazma and Gjatsk the Commanding Generals, Major General Merker of the 35th Infantry Division, Major General Schaefer of the 252nd Infantry Division, and Major General Roppert of the 7th Infantry Division, organized special incendiary and demolition

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detachments to set on fire and blow up dwellings, schools, theatres, clubs, museums, libraries, hospitals, churches, stores and industrial plants, so that only ashes and ruins would be left in the wake of the German retreat."

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In the record which is presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 2, there are several depositions of German prisoners of war. I shall quote one of these excerpts. Prisoner of war Verholtz Germann, a corporal from the 597th Infantry Regiment of the 306th Division of the German Army, deposes as follows:

"As a member of a demolition squad I took part in setting fire to and blowing up government buildings and dwelling houses in First Line, the main street of the town of Stalino. My job was to place the explosives, which I then ignited and blew up the buildings. I participated altogether in the demolition of five large houses and in the burning of several others."

Your Honors, one could continue quoting the same kind of testimony. I repeat that in our possession are many documents which we could present to the Tribunal, but I consider that there is no necessity in doing that. What has already been read into the record permits us to conclude that premeditated and deliberate devastations were carried out by Hitler in occupied territories, and that this was really a system and not individual acts, and that those devastations were not done only by the hand of individual officers and soldiers of the German Army, but that the devastations and depredations were carried out on the orders of the German Supreme Command.

I omit page 11 of my presentation, and I begin with page 12.

In the criminal plans of the German conspirators, the devastation of the capitals of Yugoslavia and Poland took a particular place in the German system, and a special plan was devoted to the destruction of Moscow and Leningrad.

Intoxicated by the first military successes, the Hitlerites elaborated crazy plans for the destruction of the greatest cultural and industrial centers dear to the Soviet people. They had already prepared for this purpose special Sonderkommandos. They even hastened to state their "decision" to refuse the capitulation of these towns, which never took place at all.

It is necessary to note that such expressions as "raze to the ground" or "wipe off the face of the earth" were used quite frequently by the Hitlerite conspirators. These were not only threats but criminal acts as well, as

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we shall see from the further presentation. They did in some places succeed in razing flourishing towns and villages to the ground.

I omit one paragraph of my presentation.

I shall present two documents which reveal the intentions of the Hitlerite conspirators. The first document is a secret directive of the Naval Staff, numbered Ia 1601/41, dated September 29, 1941. It is entitled "The Future of the City of Petersburg." This document is the order presented by our American colleagues. Therefore, even though we also have the original of this document, which was distributed in several copies, I believe that it does not have to be read into the record. With your permission, Mr. President, I shall remind the Tribunal of the contents of this directive.

In this directive it is stated that the Fuehrer decided to wipe the city of Petersburg off the face of the earth; to blockade the city and subject it to artillery bombardment and to bombardment from the air, and to raze the city to the ground. It is also directed in the order that if there will be any negotiations for capitulation, capitulation will be refused by Germany. And finally, in this document it is stated that this directive is not only on the part of the Naval Staff, but also on the part of OKW.

I omit page 13 and I begin with the last paragraph of this page.

The second document, bearing the number C-123, presented to the Court as USSR Exhibit 144, is also a secret directive of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces, dated October 7, 1941, No. 44 1675/44, and signed by the Defendant Jodl. This document is to be found on pages 69 and 70 in the document file. I read into the record the text of this document. There are a few excerpts from this letter on page 14 of my presentation. The first paragraph of the letter:

"The Fuehrer has again decided that a capitulation of Leningrad or later of Moscow is not to be accepted even if it is offered by the enemy.

"Therefore, no German soldier is to enter these cities. Anyone who tries to leave the city through our lines is to be forced to return under fire.

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"The exodus of the population through the smaller, unguarded gaps towards the interior of Russia is to be allowed. Before all other cities are taken, they are to be softened up by artillery fire and air raids and their population forced to flee.

"We cannot take the responsibility of endangering our soldiers' lives by fire in order to save Russian cities, nor that of feeding the population of these cities at the expense of the German home-land. All commanding officers must be acquainted with this desire of the Fuehrer."

The Hitlerite conspirators began to put their criminal ideas regarding the destruction of Leningrad into effect with unprecedented ferocity.

In the report of the Leningrad City Commission for the Investigation of the misdeeds of the German-fascist invaders, the monstrous crimes of the Hitlerites are described in detail.

This document has already been presented to the Court as USSR Exhibit 85.

I shall read only the data by way of summary which is presented on page 1 of the report, which is on page 71 of the document book.

"As a result of the barbarous activities of the German-fascist usurpers in Leningrad and its suburbs 8,961 buildings of economic importance and outbuildings with a total volume of 5,192,427 cubic metres were totally ruined, and 5,869 buildings were partially ruined. Altogether destroyed were 20,627 dwellings, and 8,788 buildings were partially ruined. Totally destroyed were 295 buildings of importance to cultural life and 1,629 buildings were partially ruined. Six buildings serving religious cults were totally destroyed. The Hitlerites destroyed, ruined and damaged various kinds of buildings of a value of over 718 million rubles, and over 1,043 million rubles worth of industrial equipment and agricultural machinery and implements."

By this document it is established that the Hitlerites bombed and shelled, methodically and according to plan, day and night, streets,

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dwelling-houses, theatres, museums, hospitals, kindergartens, military hospitals, schools, institutes and trams, and ruined most valuable monuments of culture and art. Many thousands of bombs and shells were launched at the historical buildings of Leningrad, and at its quays, gardens and parks.

I omit the end of page 16, and to conclude I shall permit myself to cite one of the many testimonies by Germans which are quoted in the document, namely paragraph 4 on page 14.

You will find the testimony I am quoting on page 84 of the document book. I quote:

"Sergeant Fritz Kepke, commanding No.2 gun of the 2nd battery of the 2nd detachment of the 910th artillery regiment stated: 'For the bombardment of Leningrad, there was a special stock of munitions in the batteries, supplied above the limit to an unbounded extent.

"'All the gun crews knew that the bombardments of Leningrad were aimed at ruining the town and annihilating its civil population. They therefore treated the bulletins of the German Supreme Command ironically, which spoke of shelling the "Military objectives" of Leningrad.'"

The Hitlerite conspirators aimed at the complete destruction of the capital of Yugoslavia -- Belgrade.

I remind you of document number 1746-PS, presented to the Tribunal on 7 December 1945 as G-B 120, which is an order by Hitler, dated the 27 March 1941 and dealing with the attack on Yugoslavia. As is known, this order, entitled "Directive No.25" gives in detail the strategic plan for the attack, and, besides this, orders that all Yugoslav land defences and Belgrade should be destroyed by means of uninterrupted day and night air raids.

I omit the first paragraph of page 18, inasmuch as the facts which are mentioned in this paragraph have been presented to the Tribunal on the 11th of February. I shall use a few excerpts from page 22 and 23 of the official report of the Yugoslav Government. You will find this on page 111 and 112 in your document book. I read:

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"The planned character and systematic execution of these crimes at the order of the Government of the Reich and of the OKW, is best seen from the fact that the destruction of the inhabited localities and of the population was carried out even at the time of the retreat of German troops from the Yugoslav territory, Typical for the thousands of such cases is the attempted destruction of Belgrade and extermination of its citizens in October 1944. The fighting for the liberation of Belgrade lasted from the 15th to 20th of October, 1944. Even before the fighting started the Germans had prepared a plan for the systematic destruction of the city. For the purpose of carrying out this plan, they spread all over the city groups of soldiers specially trained for mining of houses and killing of the population. Though these groups were partly prevented from carrying out this task in the scope conceived by the German commanders by the swift advance of the Red Army and the National Liberation Forces, they still succeeded in destroying a large considerable number of houses in the south part of the city, and in killing a/number of inhabitants.

It happened in the northern part of the city, where the rigers Sano and Danube meet. The Germans went from house to house, threw the inhabitants naked into the streets, brought inflammables into every apartment, spreading fire to all the buildings. If a house happened to be made of more solid materials, they would then mine it. While doing so they were firing on the inhabitants, killing defenseless persons, and in several large houses the injabitants were locked inside and they were destroyed by fire and explosions. The damage caused by this method in the city of Belgrade is estimated at the total sum of 1,127,129,069 Dinars, on the basis of pre-war prices."

Thus, the ruining of Belgrade was prescribed by Hitler's order of the 27th of March 1941, and it was carried out on direct orders of the Defendant Goering, and October 1944 was done with the same methods as the Hitlerites used in the occupied territories of the USSR.

I pass on to presenting evidence of the plans and details of the Hitlerites for ruining the capital of the Polish State -- Warsaw. I shall quote three documents which reveal the criminal intentions of the fascist conspirators to raze this town to the ground.

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The first document is under the number USSR Exhibit 128. I present to the Court a telegram addressed to the Defendant Frank, No. 13265, and signed by the Governor of the Warsaw District, Dr. Gischer. The telegram is to be found on page 148 of the document book. I read into the record the text of this telegram:

"To the Governor General and Reichsminister Dr. Frank:

"At Cracow:

"Warsaw, No. 13265 11.10.44.

"Subject: New Policy with Regard to Poland.

"I have to inform you of the following result of the visit of SS-Lieutenant General (SS-Obergruppenfuehrer* von dem Bach to the Reichsfuehrer S:

"SS Lieutenant General von dem Bach received the new order to pacify Wars - that is, of razing Warsaw to the ground while the war is still on, where military requirements in the way of fortifications place no obstacles in the way. Before leaving, all raw materials, textiles, and furniture should be cleared out of Warsaw. The main task devolves on the civilian administration.

"I am informing you of this because this new order of the Fuehrer with regard to the destruction of Warsaw is of the greatest importance for the further new policy with regard to Poland.

The Governor of the Warsaw District

at present Soehaczew

signed: Dr. Fischer."

The Bach-Zelewsky mentioned in the telegram is already known to you, your Honors; he testified at the afternoon session of the Tribunal on the 7th of January.

How Obergruppenfuehrer von dem Bach-Zelewsky of the SS carried out Hitler's order regarding the destruction of Warsaw can be seen from the writte evidence given by him on oath on the 28th of January, 1946, during his interrogation by the Public Prosecutor of the Polish republic, Mr. Savitzky.

The original record of the interrogation in German, signed by Bach-Zelewsky, I present to the Court as document No. USSR Exhibit 313; I shall read two extracts from this record into the record:

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"When I spoke with Reinfarth and told him that such actions are detrimental to morale and a shock to reason, Reinfarth referred to the order issued by Hitler and Himmler.

THE PRESIDENT: We will hear the objection.

DR. SEIDL (Counsel for the Defendant Frank): I protest to the reading of the protocol of the witness von dem Bach-Zelewsky. The witness has been heard before this Court, and the possibility existed then to ask the witness about the subject of this protocol right here before the Court.

I should demand that the witness von dem Bach-Zelewsky, who is still here in Nurnberg, should be called before the Tribunal again, provided the Soviet Prosecution wants to read this protocol, so that the Defense has the opportunity also to cross examine the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: General, do you want to say anything?

GENERAL RAGINSKY: Mr. President, this record of the interrogation of von dem Bach-Zelewsky was given under oath, and it was presented by the Soviet Delegation to the representatives of the Polish Government. The report of the interrogation is formulated according to laws, and it is given under oath. Therefore, we consider that it should be possible to present it to the Tribunal, without calling Zelewsky for the second time as a witness. If the Tribunal will decide that, without calling Bach-Zelewsky as a witness before the Tribunal, his testimony cannot be read into the record, then, in the interests of expediting the trial, and in order not to prolong the Soviet presentation, we are willing to forego the presentation of this testimony, inasmuch as the facts in the testimony have been already established by other documents and will be established by documents that I shall present in the future.

THE PRESIDENT: May I ask you this, General: If the evidence given before the Polish commission is the same as the evidence which Bach-Zelewsky gave in Court, it would be cumulative; if it is different, surely the Defendants' Counsel ought to have the opportunity of cross examining him upon it.

GENERAL RAGINSKY: The testimony which was given by Bach-Zelewsky to the Attorney General of the Polish Republic is in addition to the testimony which

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had been given before the Tribunal. In regard to the razing of Warsaw, Bach-Zelewsky was not examined du: ·g his testimony before the Tribunal.

THE PRESIDENT: General Raginsky, the Tribunal understood you to say that you would be prepared to withd· aw this evidence, inview of the fact that the witness had given evidence already, and the Tribunal considers that that is the proper course to take. So the evidence will be withdrawn and struck from the record, so far as it has been put on the record.

I think this is a good time to adjourn.

(A recess was taken.)

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GENERAL RAGINSKY: As a result of the conclusion of the Tribunal, I exclude from my statement page 21, and pass on to page 22.

I will read to the Court an extract from the diary of the defendant Frank, which was presented to the Tribunal USSR Exhibit 223. This extract is on page 45 of the document book. I have in mind the file which was begun on the 1st of August, 1944, and brought to the 14th of December, 1944, headed "Diary", in which there is a note which mentions the contents of a telegram sent by Frank to Reich Minister Lammers. I quote:

"On the 5th of August 1944, the Governor-General sends the following telegra to Reich Minister Dr. Lammers: 'The City of Warsaw is, for the most part, wreathed in flames. The burning of the houses is the most reliable method of preventing the escape of the insurgents.
After this rising and its suppression, Warsaw will justly be committed to its deserved fate of being completely annihilated.' "

These documents prove, thus, that the fascist conspirators set for themselves the aim of razing to the ground the capital of the Polish State, Warsaw, and that the defendant Frank played an extremely active part in this crime.

In all the territories of the USSR, Yugoslavia, Poland, Greece and Czechoslovakia occupied by them, the German fascist usurpers systematically destroyed inhabited localities according to plan, under the pretense of fighting the partisans. Punitive expeditions, detachments and commandos, specially detailed by the German military command, burnt down and blew up tens of thousands of villages, hamlets, and other inhabited places.

I skip a paragraph.

From the numerous documents in the possession of the Soviet prosecution, I will quote, as examples, as few excerpts which are typical and which characterize the whole system used by the Hitlerites.

The report of Captain Kasper, a company commander, dated the 27th of September, 1942, and entitled "Conclusive Report on the Results of the Pacifying Expedition Carried out in the Village of Borisovska from the 22nd to the 26th of September, 1942", states as follows:

"Task: No. 9 Company had to destroy the band-infested village of Borisovska.

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This document has been presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 119.

I skip to the middle of page 24.

In January 1942, in the Reseknen District of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Germans destroyed the Hamlet of Audriny with the whole of its population, ostensibly for having aided members of the Red Army. In the towns of Latvia a notice was put up by the Chief of the German State Security Police in Latvia, SS Obersturmbannfuehrer Strauch, in German, Latvian, and Russian.

I present to the Court a certified photostat of this notice as USSR Exhibit 262, and I read to the Court an excerpt from this document. This excerpt is at page 158 of the document book.

"The Commander of the German State Security Police in Latvia hereby announces the followings:

"2. The inhabitants of the Hamlet of Audriny, in the Rezhetz District, concealed members of the Red Army for over one-quarter of a year, armed them, and assisted them in every way in activities against the State.

"As punishment I ordered the followings:

"That the Hamlet of Audriny be wiped off the face of the earth."

The Hitlerites widely practiced punitive expeditions in the occupied districts of the Leningrad provinze. As can be seen from a sentence of the Military Tribunal of the Leningrad military district, which was submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 91, the Hitlerites burnt down, in February 1944, 10 inhabited localities in the Dedovitch, Pozherevitz, and Ostrov Districts. The Hitlerite punitive expeditions also burnt down the Hamlets of Strashevo and Zapolye in the Plyuss District, and the Hamlets of Belshye Lyady, Ludoni, etc.

Numerous punitive detachments, acting on the orders of the German Supreme Command, burnt down many hundreds of inhabited localities in Yugoslav territory.

I refer, as evidence, to the third section of the report of the Yugoslav State Commission for the Establishment of the Crimes of the German Usurpers, which has been presented to the Tribunal as document USSR 36, and also to the special statement of the Yugoslav State Commission, numbered 2697 (45),

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and signed by Professor Nedelkovic, which I present to the Tribunal as USSR 309. These documents are at pages 165 and 167 of the document book.

In these documents we find a number of facts concerning the burning and destruction of villages and hamlets by the Hitlerites, by means of special punitive expeditions.

As examples one can name the localities of Zagelzyde, Udova, Meckovac, Marsic, Grasnica, Rudnika, Krupnza, Rastovac, Orah, Crabovica, Dracic, Lozinda, and many others. These districts of Yugoslavia were completely devastated after the Germans had been there.

I also present to the Tribunal a photostatic copy of a notice by the so-called Commander-in-Chief of Serbia, which I beg the Tribunal to accept as USSR Exhibit 200. This notice was captured by troops of the Yugoslav army of liberation, and it is certified by the Yugoslav State Commission.

I read into the record only one extract of this notice:

"The Commander-in-Chief of Serbia announces that the Hamlet of Skela has been burnt down and razed to the ground."

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German punitive units also destroyed inhabited localities in Poland. As evidence I submit to the Tribunal USSR exhibit 368, which is an affidavit of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government, Dr. Stefan Kurovsky. This affidavit is an appendix to the official report of the Polish Government.

From this document it is ascertained that in the spring of 1943, in the territory of the Zemoisky, Bilgoraisky, Khrubeshovsky and Krasnitzky districts, and under the command of the SS Officer Globotchnik, the Germans burnt down a number of inhabited localities; and in February 1944 five hamlets were destroyed in the Krasnitzky district with the help of the air force.

A considerable number of inhabited localities were burnt down and razed to the ground in Greece. As examples we will name the settlements of Amelofite, Kleiston, Kizonia, Ano-Kertselion and Kato-Kertselion in the Salonica district, and the settlements of Mesovounos and Selli in the Korzani district, and others.

I present to the Tribunal, as USSR exhibit 103, certified photostats of three telegraphic reports of the 164th German Infantry Division to the Chief of Staff of the 12th Army. These reports, gentlemen, are at page 170 of the document book.

Each of these reports consists of nine to ten lines. They are uniform in type and standardized. But these short official documents reveal actually the monstrous system generally employed by the Hitlerites in the territories occupied by them.

I will read into the record one of these reports.

"18 October, 1941. To the Chief of Staff of the Army, 12 Athens.

"Daily Report.

"1. The villages of Ano-Kertselion and Kato-Kertselion, which had been proved to be the base of a rather large guerrilla band in this area, were razed to the ground by the troops of the Division on 17th of October. The male inhabitants between 16 and 60 years of age--totalling 207 persons--were shot, and the women and children were

H0067-0024

evacuated to another spot.

"2. No other special, important incidents.

"164th Infantry Division."

I believe that I do not need to comment on the document.

I also refer to the official report of the Greek Government, which is presented to the Tribunal as USSR exhibit 358. On pages 39 and 40 of the report, which corresponds to page 207 of your document book, we find numerous facts concerning the burning and destruction of hamlets on the Island of Crete. Thus, the hamlets of Skiki, Prassi and Kanados were completely burnt down, in retaliation for the murder of some German parachutists carried out by employees of the local police at the time of the attack on the Island of Crete.

Certain hamlets were demolished by the Germans for the sole reason that they were in the partisans' zone of operations.

It is stated in the report that, out of 6,500 hamlets, 1,600 were completely or partially demolished. One must also note that the Germans intentionally shelled undefended towns and caused heavy damage to 23 Greek towns, among which Yannina, Arta, Preveza, Tukkala, Larissa and Canea were almost completely destroyed. This is mentioned on page 23 of the report of the Greek Government. It is on page 190 of the document book.

Gentlemen, the whole world knows about the Hitlerites' crimes at Lidice. The 10th of June, 1942, was the last day of Lidice and of its inhabitants. The Fascist barbarians left irrefutable evidence of their monstrous crime. They made a film of the annihilation of Lidice, and we are able to show this cinematographic document to the Court.

Following an order of the Czechoslovak Government, an investigation was carried out. This investigation established that the filming of Lidice was entrusted to a professor and advisor on photography, Dr. Franz Treml, and was carried out to the letter, in conjunction with Miroslav Wagner.

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Among these documents which we present to the Tribunal there are photographs taken by the operators who filmed the different phases of the destruction of Lidice. I present these documents to the Tribunal as USSR exhibit 370.

I would like to remark that this film, which is a German film, was taken a few years ago. The technical state of this reel is not very satisfactory, and therefore when we demonstrate it there may be a few defects.

I beg the forgiveness of the Tribunal beforehand that we be allowed to demonstrate this film as documentary evidence.

(The film of the destruction of Lidice was shown.)

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What the Germans perpetrated in Lidice was repeated a short time later in another inhabited point of Czechoslovakia in the village of Lezaky.

I will refer as proof to the Czechoslovak Government's report, pages 126-127. This document is presented to the Court as USSR Exhibit No.60.

This report states:

"Lezaky, like Lidice, was totally destroyed and the ground where it had stood was covered over with mud."

I pass on to the next count of my statement, the destruction of villages and towns, industry and transport on the territory of the USSR.

Your Honors, I have quoted above the general directives of the criminal German Government and the German Supreme Command concerning the destruction of inhabited centers of industry and means of communications in the USSR. Now I pass on to the presentation of proofs of those destructions which were committed in execution of these directives by the Hitlerites everywhere on all the territories which they temporarily occupied in the Soviet Union.

I skip the proof of the destructions of single towns and pass on to the destruction on page 42 of my report.

There are a large number of documents at the disposal of the Soviet Prosecution which incriminate the Hitlerite criminals of the premeditated and systematic, calculated and cruel annihilation and destruction of towns and villages, works and factories, railways and means of communication.

The presentation of all this documentation would seriously delay the process of the trial.

Therefore, I consider it proper to pass on to general conclusive data established by the Extraordinary State Commission.

From document USSR Exhibit 35, which has been submitted to the Tribunal, I will quote only those sections and data which have not been quoted previously and only those which directly concern the subject of my statement. These extracts are on pages 223-224 of the document book:

"The German-Fascist invaders totally or partially destroyed and burned 1710 towns and more than 70,000 villages and hamlets. They burned and destroy more than six million buildings and rendered some 25 million persons homeless. Among the destroyed towns which suffered most are the great industrial and

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cultural centers of Stalingrad, Sebastopol, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Smolensk, Novgorod, Pskov, Orel, Kharkov, Voronesh, Rostov on the Don and many others.

"The German-Fascist invaders destroyed 31,850 industrial concerns, which employed some four million workers."

I skip pages 43 and 44 and 45, and begin with page 46 of my report.

"The Hitlerites destroyed 36,000 postal and telegraphic bureaux, telephon centers and other centers of communications during their occupation of a part of the Soviet Union, and especially during their retreat. The German Fascist invaders committed great damage to the

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railway system and waterways.

"With special machines they put out of action 26 and partially destroyed eight main railway lines. They destroyed 65,000 kilometers of rails and 500,00 kilometers of cables for signals and brake installations. They blew up 13,000 railway bridges, 4,100 railways stations. They destroyed 317 locomotive depots and 129 locomotive and wagon repair shops, as well as railways construction installations.

"They destroyed, damaged or evacuated to Germany 15,800 locomotives, and diesel locomotives, and 428,000 trucks and railways cars.

"The enemy caused great damage to the buildings, enterprises and institutions and ships of the shipping lines operating in the Arctic Sea, in the White Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Black and the Caspian Seas. They sunk or partially damaged more than 1,400 passenger, cargo and special ships.

"The sea ports of Sebastopol, Mariupol Kertch, Novorossisk, Odessa, Nikolayev, Leningrad, Murmansk, Lepaya, Tallinn and others equipped with modern technical installations suffered greatly.

"The usurpers sank or stole 4,280 passenger and cargo steamers and steam tugs of the inland shipping services, as well as 4,029 tug boats. They destroyed 479 harbor and landing bridge installations, as well as 89 wharves and machine factories.

"Retreating before the assault of the Red Army, German troops blew up and destroyed 91,000 kilometers of highways and 90,000 road bridges, of a total length of 930 kilometers."

I now conclude my statement, Your Honors. The documents which were presented to the Tribunal and read into the record clearly demonstrate how the Hitlerite conspirators in all the territories captured by them in the USSR, Jugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslavia and Greece, trampled upon the laws and customs of war, the fundamental principles of criminal law and the ordinary provisions of Articles 46 and 50 of the Hague Convention of 1907.

The documents submitted also prove that in the plans of the German invaders the complete destruction was contemplated of cities and villages from which the Hitlerites were compelled to retreat under the blows of the armed forces of the Soviet Union.

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The documents show finally with what bestial cruelty and mercilessness the Hitlerites put into practice their criminal plans, reducing to dust and ashes the largest cultural and industrial centers.

Over a wide area from the White to the Black and the Aegean Seas, in territory temporarily occupied by the German troops, the Hitlerites pruposely and according to plan reduced to ruins densely populated and flourishing Russian, Byleorussian, Jugoslavian, Greek and Czechoslovakian cities, towns and villages.

All this was the result of the criminal activity of the Hitlerite Government and of the German High Command, the representatives of which are now on the defendants' benches.

I would like, Mr. President, to present as evidence and as USSR 401 a documentary film concerning the destruction perpetrated by the Germans on the territories of the Soviet Union. The documentary proof of this film is submitted now to the Tribunal.

(Whereupon the aforementioned motion picture film was projected on the screen in the courtroom.)

THE PRESIDENT: Will you continue, if possible. All right, we will adjourn.

(A recess was taken until 1400 hours.)

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Official transcript of the International Military Tribunal in the matter of The United States of America, the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against Hermann Wilhelm Goering et al, defendants, sitting at Nurnberg, Germany on 22 February 1946, 1400-1700, Lord Justice Lawrence presiding.

GENERAL RAGINSKY: Mr. President, in order to exhaust all of the material and presentation of evidence in regard to the subject matter that I touched, I ask your permission to examine one witness Joseph Abgarovitch Orbeli who is brought to the Tribunal. Orbeli will testify in regard to the devastation and wrecking of the monuments of culture and art in Leningrad.

THE PRESIDENT: Do you have any objections to make?

DR. SERVATIUS (counsel for the Leadership Corps): I would like to ask the Court, if I may, to decide whether the witness can be heard on this subject and if this is official. Leningrad was never in German hands. Leningrad was only shelled with regular means of troops and also from the air, just as it is done regularly by all armies of the world. It should be said what would be proved by this witness.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal considers that there is no substance in the objection that has just been made, and we will hear the witness.

(JOSEPH ARGAROVITCH ORBELI testified as follows:)

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Q What is your name?

A Joseph Abgarovitch Orbeli.

Q Will you repeat this oath after me. I, and state your name, a citizen of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, summoned as a witness in this trial, promise and swear, in the presence of the Court, to tell the Court nothing but the truth about everything I know in regard to this case.

A (The witness repeated the oath.)

THE PRESIDENT: You may sit if you wish.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY GENERAL RAGINSKY:

Q Will you tell us, please, what was your position?

A I was Director of the State Hermitage Museum.

Q What is your scientific attainment?

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A I am a member of the Academy of Science, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; an active member of the Academy of Architecture of the USSR; president of the Armenian Academy of Science; an Honourable member of the Iran Academy of Science; member of the Society of Antiquariums in London; and a member Consultant of the American Institute of Art and Archeology.

Q Were you in Leningrad at the time of the German blockade?

A Yes.

Q Do you know about the destruction of monuments of culture and art in Leningrad?

A Yes.

Q Can you tell us in your own words, facts that were known to you?

A Besides general observations in regard to general activities activities around Leningrad, I also was an eye-witness of the treasures which were destroyed by the enemy, so far as the Hermitage Museum is concerned, and the building of the Winter Palace and Heritage Palace - the exhibits belonging to the Hermitage Museum. During many months there was a systematic air bombardment and artillery shelling of the buildings of the Hermitage. There were to aviation bombs that hit the building Hermitage and about 30 artillery shells hit the building. These shells caused considerable damage to the building. Air bombs destroyed drainage and the water supply of the museum. Observing the damage done to Hermitage, I also saw at the same time the burning of the Academy of Science, which was situated on the opposite shore of the river. The buildings of the Academy of Science; namely, the Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography situated right next to the Zoological Museum. All these buildings were subjected to heavy artillery shelling by incendiary shells, and as a result of this I saw the result of these hits while looking at it from the Winter Palace. The damage itself, from artillery shells, caused considerable damage; and to wit, the ones that I consider were substantial. One shell broke a portico of the main building of the Hermitage, facing Million Street, and the upper part of the Atlanta statue was bombed and the remainder was destroyed, the second shell having gone through the ceiling was one of the b iggest holes in the Winter Palace, which broke through the walls of the first story and caused considerable damage within the hall itself. Two shells hit the former riding school of the palace, where considerable exhibits dating from the 17th and 18th century were located.

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One hit broke entirely four famous carriages of the 18th Century and one of gilt carriage of the 19th Century was hit. Furthermore, one shell went through the ceiling of the column hall of the main building of the Hermitage and a balcony, and the gallery of this hall was destroyed by it. At the same time, a branch building of the Hermitage Museum on Talt Street, late Stieglitz was hit by the aviation bombs which caused great damage to the building. The building was absolutely wrecked, and a large part of the exhibits in this building was destroyed.

H0067 – 0033

Q Do I understand you correctly? You have mentioned about destruction of the Hermitage and you mentioned the Winter Palace. Is that only one building? Where was the Hermitage Museum located, the one that you mentioned?

A Until the Revolution, the Hermitage occupied a special building of its own facing Million Street, and the other side facing the Winter Palace on the Neva. After the Revolution, a Small Hermitage was also joined to the Big Hermitage, the building which was separating the Hermitage from the Winter Palace; and subsequently the winter palace was also incorporated into the Large Hermitage. So now the series of buildings and premises which belong to the Hermitage consist of the Winter Palace, Small Hermitage, and Big Hermitage, which was occupied by the musuem prior to the Revolution, and also the building of the Hermitage Theatre, which was built by Catherine II. That was the building that was hit by the bomb, that was mentioned.

Q Besides the destruction of the Winter Palace and the Hermitage, do you know any other facts about the destruction of other monuments?

A Yes, I observed monuments which suffered great damage from artillery shelling and aviation bombs. Among them damage was caused to the Kazan Cathedral, which was built in 1814 by Architect Voronichin Isaaki; the cathedral, where columns carried out the traces of damage.

THE PRESIDENT: You are going rather too fast. Go on.

THE WITNESS: And within the city limits great damage was done to the Rastrelli Building and the Smolensk Cathedral, which was build by Rastrelli, where the middle part of the gallery was blown up. Furthermore, considerable damage was done to the surface of the walls of Fortress of Peter and Paul, which now is not a military fortification at all.

Q Besides Leningrad, do you know anything at all about the destruction and devastation of the suburbs of Leningrad?

A I had the chance to familiarize myself with the condition of the monuments of Peterhof and Pavlovsk, and in all those three towns I saw traces of monstrous encroachment on those monuments by the Germans. And of all the damage which I saw, it is very hard to state in full, because it is too much, allthe damge had traces of mutilation.

As to the shelling of the Winter Palace, I could mention that 30 shells,

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which I talked about before, hit the Hermitage -- 30 bombs. That was not during one raid -- but during several raids. In other words, in Peterhof, besides the damage which was caused to the big palace by fire, it was destroyed completely. I also saw roofs torn off Peterhof, which was guilded and silver-plated, and the Monplaisire of old building Peterhof and on the opposite side of the building. Besides this, the sheetings could no fall off on account of fire and damage -- they were torn off. In the older buildings of Peterhof, which were built by Peter, all damage had a trace of mutilation; not as a result of any catastrophe, because the Museum wasn't touched at all. But the decorated walls were absolutely torn off. All ancient stones which dated to the time of Peter the Great disappeared without any trace, and very ordinary stones were put in their place. In Tsaskoe Selo, the large palace, which was built by Rastrelli, samage certainly showed signs of mutilation, because in a whole series of halls valuable furniture was carried away before the building perished in the fire. In Argate Hall the walls were decorated by polished agates, and was turned into a munition plant, and the forge was put into the fire place, which dated to the 18th Century, and which as absolutely ruined.

In Pavlovsk, the palace of the city was also ruined by fire. A whole lot of traces -- of the fire prove the fact that valuable property, which was in the halls, was carried out beforethe hall was set on fire.

Q You mentioned just now about the Winter Palace and other monuments of culture which were enumerated by you. In other words, that Winter Palace was deliberately ruined? What particular facts do you have for this statement?

A The deliberate shelling of the Hermitage by artillery fire during the siege, as well as for all my colleagues, was quite clear, because damage was caused not by just artillery shelling just once or twice during this methodical systematic shelling of the city, which we were witnessing for several months. The first hits were directed not at the Hermitage, not at the Winter Palace -- the shells were passing by. Of course, it was hitting into the range of the palace and after this, approximately in the same direction, with just variations from the state line.

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The shells were hitting no further, one or two during one particular shelling. Of course, it was not accidental in character.

GENERAL RAGINSKY: I have no more questions for the witness.

THE PRESIDENT: Do any of the other prosecuting counsel want to ask any questions? Do any of the defense counsel want to ask any questions?

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY DR. LATERNSER (Counsel for General Staff and OKW):

Q Mr. Witness, you have just said something about artillery shelling and also by aerial bombs, of the Hermitage, Winter Palace, and also the Peterhof Palace. I would be very much interested as to where the buildings are located; that is, as seen from Leningrad?

A The Winter Palace and Hermitage, which stands right next to it, are in the center of Leningrad on the shores of the River Neva on the Palace Quai, not so far from the Palace Bridge, which during all the shelling, was hit only once. On the other hand, on the other side was Neva -- next to the Winter Palace and Hermitage there was the so-called Palace Square and Halturin Street. Did I answer your question?

Q I amend the question a little differently. In what part of Leningrad were these buildings -- in the south, the north, the southwest or southeast? Will you tell me something about that?

A The Winter Palace and Hermitage are right in the center of Leningrad on the shores of the Neva, as I have already mentioned before.

Q And where is the Peterhof?

A The Peterhof is on the shores of the Finnish Bay, southwest of the Hermitage, if you consider the Hermitage as a starting point.

Q Can you tell me whether close to the Hermitage Palace and Winter Palace there is any industry, particularly armament industry?

A So far as I know, in the vicinity of Hermitage, there are no industrial concerns. If the question meant as to locating the building of the headquarters of the staff, then it is located on the other side of the Palace Square, and it suffered much less due to the shelling than the Winter Palace. The staff building, which is on the other side of the Palace Square, so far as I know, was hit only by two shells.

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Q Witness, do you know anything about the fact whether probably close by, close to these buildings which you mentioned, whether there was any battery of artillery?

A Around Winter Palace, around the square, there wasn't a single artillery battery, because from the very beginning steps were taken not to have any shooting or shaking from fire near the building Hermitage, so that it wouldn't suffer from earth trembling.

Q Did the factories, which were in Leningrad during the siege, continue to work in armament production?

A I do not understand the question. What part are you talking about--Leningrad in general?

Q Armament factories in Leningrad: had they been working during the time of the siege?

A I know that in the neighbourhood of the Hermitage building and Winter Palace, the immediate neighborhood, there weren't any factories working for war purposes. During the blockade there were no factories at all. But I know that in Leningrad munitions were being made, and as much as I can judge were successfully used.

DR. LATERNSER: I have no more questions.

BY DR. SERVATIUS (Counsel for the Political Leadership Corps):

Q Witness, the Winter Palace is on the Neva River. How far is the next bridge across the Neva River from the Winter Palace?

A The nearest bridge, the Palace bridge, is within about 50 metres from the Palace. But as I already said before, only one shell hit the bridge, and for exactly that reason I believe the Winter Palace was deliberately shelled. I didn't think it possible that the bridge was the object of shelling, because only one shell hit the bridge and about thirty shells hit the Palace. The other bridge is an exchange bridge which joins the island of Vasiliev to Petrogradskaya Storona; and with regard to that fact only during the raids only incendiary bombs were dropped on that place, which hit this bridge, and then only very few.

H0067 - 0037

Q Witness, have you any knowledge of artillery--whether you could judge whether the target was the Palace or the bridge in the vicinity?

A I never was an artillery man, but I suppose that if German artillery was trying to hit the bridge then it couldn't possibly hit the bridge only once and hit the Palace, which is quite a ways away, thirty times. That is what makes me think so.

Q That is your conviction as a non-artillery man. I have another question. The Neva River was used by the fleet. How far from the Winter Palace were the ships of the Red Fleet?

A In that part of the Neva River there were no fighting ships, and what would serve as military operations on other parts of the Neva was considerably away from the Palace.

Q One last question. During the entire siege were you in Leningrad?

A I was in Leningrad from the first day of the war until the 31st of March 1942. Then when the German troops were driven out of the suburbs of Leningrad I had a chance to examine Peterhof.

DR. SERVATIUS: Thank you. I have no more questions.

THE PRESIDENT: General, do you want to ask any questions in re-examination?

GENERAL RAGINSKY: No further questions.

THE PRESIDENT: The witness can retire.

MAJOR GENERAL ZORYA: May it please your Honors. I want to begin to submit documentary evidence on the part of the Soviet Prosecution with regard to the employment of compulsory slave labor practised by the Hitlerites on a large scale.

With its plans for world domination, with its negation of law, ethics, mercy and humane considerations, Fascism early envisaged the enslavement of the peaceful population of the temporarily occupied territories, the deportation of millions of people to Fascist Germany, and the compulsory employment of their labor power.

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Fascism and slavery--these two concepts are inseparable.

I begin, your Honors, my presentation of this document relative to the report of the Yugoslav Republic, which was already submitted to the Tribunal as USSR-36. I refer to page 40 of your document book. I read into the record extracts from the report of the Yugoslav Republic, which is entitled, "Forced Labor of Civilian Populations." I quote.

The Fascist policy of the wholesale exploitation of the occupied territories has also been applied in Yugoslavia.

Immediately after the occupation the Reich Government and the OKW introduced forced labor for the population of the occupied territory. The exploitation of the manpower in Yugoslavia has been carried out within the framework of the general German plan in this respect. The Defendant Goering, as the leader of the German Economic Plan, issued directives to his subordinates concerning the systematic exploitation of the manpower of the occupied territories.

In a report from Berlin, which was written by the Head of the Administration Service of the German Kommandantur in Belgrade, named Ranze, instructions by Goering are communicated according to which the economic regulations in the occupied territories do not aim at the protection of the local population, but at the maximum exploitation of the manpower of the occupied countries for the benefit of the German war economy.

Immediately after the occupation of Yugoslavia, the Germans established offices for enlisting workers for "voluntary" labor in Germany. To their own organization the Germans immediately added the organizations which already existed in Yugoslavia for employment of the workers and labor mediation, and began to carry out through these organizations also their own plans. Thus, for example, in Serbia they immediately incorporated into their own organization the main and central office for labor mediation, as well as the labor exchange. Through these organizations, until the end of February 1943,

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and only from the territory of Serbia the Germans sent into Germany 47,500 workers to work there. Later on this number considerably increased but, however, the data in this respect have not yet been fully examined. These workers have been employed in agriculture and various industries of Germany, regularly performing the most difficult kinds of work.

In the report of the Yugoslav Republic it is stated that the Gestapo and special police also used pressure and force, and this went so far that these "volunteer" workers were hunted and collected through the streets and dragged into Germany by force. Apart from these so-called "volunteer" workers the Germans sent for forced labor in Germany a large number of prisoners from various camps, as well as politically "suspicious" persons--suspicious from their point--who had to perform the most difficult kinds of work and under the worst living and working conditions. As early as 1942 many innocent victims of the Banjica, Sajmiste, and other camps, were sent for forced labor into Germany. The first transport of them left on April 24, 1942, and these transports continued without interruption until September 26, 1944. Old and young, men and women, farmers, workers and intellectuals, and others were sent to Germany. However, they were not taken only to Germany, but to other countries under German occupation as well.

According to the log books of the Banjica camp, which are far from giving an exact picture, over ten thousand prisoners were sent for forced labor from this camp alone.

The German authorities in Serbia issued a series of orders, aiming at a complete mobilization of manpower. Among the first measures

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the following two laws were passed: The law for the Compulsory Work and Restriction of the Freedom of Employment of 14 December 1941, and the law for the National Service work for the Reconstruction of Serbia, of November 5, 1941. According to the first decree of law between 17 and 45 years of age could be called up for compulsory labor in vertain industrial undertakings and branches of economy. According to the second law, such persons could be called up for civilian service in the "National Reconstruction," which in fact meant that they had to work for the sthengthening of the German economic and war effort.

The persons recruited in accordance with these two laws, admittedly remained in the country itself, but in fact they worked exclusively for the aims and benfit of the Germans' economic exploitation. They were primarily used for work in the mines (Bor, Kostolac, etc), for road building, railway line repairs, and for water transport, and so on.

On March 26, 1943, the German Commandant of Serbia, chief of armed forces, in a special order, introduced the so-called war economy measures of the Reich in the occupied territory of Serbia, and by this act imposed the general mobilization of the manpower in Serbia.

By this order, therefore, the entire population of the occupied Serbia was mobilized into the German war economy. The Germans exploited, in fact, to thegreatest possible extent the Serbian manpower.

The situation was in no way different in the other occupied areas of Yugoslavia. Without entering into numerous details of this planned exploitation, we shall quote here only one example from the occupied Slovenia. According to an official "Announcement" of the Regional German Farmers' Union in Koruska of August 10, 1944, issued in Celovec, every case of pregnancy of non-German women was to be reported to the loval administration, and in all such cases the women had to give up their children, and also were subject to committing abortions. The "Announcement" itself explains that in cases when non-German women give birth to their children, this "creates difficulties for their use in work", and besides, also, "a danger for the popultation policy". Furthermore, this "Announcement" states that it will be the duty of the Office of Work Service to influence these women to commit abortions.

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As another example of the exploitation of manpower, we quote the circular instructions of the German State, Councillor for the Maribor District, of August 12, 1944. This circular deals with the question of enlisting various categories of population in the occupied Province of "Donja Stajerska" into the armed forces and labor service, and it calls not only upon all the inhabitants of this occupied area, but also on the Dutchmen, Danes, Swedes, Luxembourgers, Norwegians, and Belgians, who may find themselves living there, to join up for labor service.

I shall pass on now to the report which was presented to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit No. 93.

First we should make a special note on the role of the defendant Frank in organizing deportations of the Polish population for slave labor to Germany.

I shall read into the record several excerpts from the so-called Frank's Diary submitted to the Tribunal as exhibit USSR-223.

This is the way Frank characterized his attitude toward the Poles at the meeting of the section chiefs which took place in Cracow, 12 April, 1940: Page twenty-six of the document file, reverse side. I quote:

"Under the pressure of the Reich it has now been ordered that as an insufficient number of voluntar workers have applied for work in the Reich it is permissible to use compulsion.

"This compulsion implies the possibility of arresting Poles, both men and women. In the course of this practice a certain amount of unrest has occurred which, according to some reports, is very wide spread, and which may lead to difficulties in all direction.

General Field-Marshall Goering in his long address some time ago stressed the necessity of deporting to Germany a million workers. Only 160,000 have been delivered up to date.

Arrests of young Poles when leaving churches and movie-houses will lead to an ever increasing nervousness of the Pole.

Generally he has no objections to make when the loitering rabble which is capable of work is taken off the streets. The best way would be to arrange a radi and it is absolutely legal to stop a Pole in the street and to ask him what he is doing, where he is working, etc."

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During his conversation with defendant Sauckel, 18 August, 1942, defendant Frank stated:

"I am glad to be able to tell you officially that so far through us more than 800,000 workers have been sent into the Reich.

"Recently you have requested us to obtain 140,000 more workers. I have pleasure in telling you officially that in accordance with our agreement of yesterday 60% of those newly requested Poles will be sent to the Reich before the end of October and the remaining 40% before the end of this year."

Frank fulfilled his promise to defendant Sauckel.

At the conference of the Polish leaders of the Labor Front in the Government-General, 14 December 1942, Frank stated the following in his address:

"You know that we have given to the Reich more than 940,000 Polish workers. Accordingly the Government-General is at the head of all European countries, both absolutely and relatively. This performance is collossal; it was recognized as such also by Gauleiter Sauckel".

I shall now read into the record that section of the Report of the Government of the Polish Republic which is entitled "Deportation of the Civilian Population for Forced Labor."

a) As early as on October 2nd, 1939, a decree was issued by Frank concerning the introduction of forced labor for the Polish civilian population within the Government General. By virtue of the said decree Polish civilians were under the obligation to work in agricultural establishments, on the maintenance of public buildings, road construction, regulation of river, highways, and railways.

b) A further decree of December 12th, 1939, extended the groups of those liable to forced labor to children from the age of 14 years. And a decree of May 13th, 1942, gave the authorities the right to use forced labor even outside the Government General.

c) The practice which developed on the basis of those decrees turned into a mass deportation of civilians from Poland and Germany.

Throughout the Government General, in towns and villages posters were continually inviting Poles to go "voluntarily" to work in Germany. At the same

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time however every town and village was told how many workers they were to supply.

The result of the voluntary recruitment was usually very disappointing. As a result of that the German authorities named the people to go or arranged round-ups in streets, restaurants, and other places and those caught were sent straight to Germany. There was a particular hunt for young workers of both sexes. The families of those deported received no news from them for months and only after some time postcards arrived describing the poor conditions in which they were forced to live. Often, after several months, the workers used to return home in a state of spiritual depression and complete physical exhaustion.

There is substantial evidence that while on that forced labor thousands of men were sterilized while young girls were forced into brothels.

d) These laborers were either sent to live with German farmers, working on their land, to work in factories, or special work, while confined to forced labor camps. The conditions in those camps were abhorrent.

e) According to provisional estimates, in 1940 alone, several hundred thousand women and men were sent to Germany as laborers.

f) To this great army of slave workers thousands of Poles deported from the incorporated territories have to be added and also 200,000 Polish prisoners-of-war who, by a decree issued by Hitler in August 1940, were "released" from camps, but only to be sent to forced labor into various parts of Germany.

g) These deportations continued throughout the years of war. The total number of those workers reached at a certain point a figure of two millions. Exact figures are obviously not available. But if one considers that in spite of the very high death rate among these people, there are now about 895,000 Polish citizens registered in Western Germany, the estimate appears correct.

The whole chapter of deportations to forced labor is presented here in a very condensed form. Behind these few lines lies the history of hundreds of thousands of Polish families destroyed, tragedy, death and sorrow. The history of each of these laborers was a continuous tragedy: Fathers leaving their families without means, husbands their wives with no possibility of maintaining them, with no protection and little hope of return.

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The quoted number of two million conceals an ocean of broken lives, involving, at the least, 10% of the total population of Poland. This was a terrible crime, a crime terrible enough in itself, but especially so with respect to all these victims.

Deportation and forced labor were a flagrant violation of the laws of warfare.

The Greek Report on the German Atrocities, submitted to the Tribunal as Exhibit USSR-369, states the following:

"As in all the other occupied territories, the Germans pursued two main objectives in their occupational policy in Greece: the maximum exploitation of the country's resources in the interests of the German military economy, and the enslavement of the population by means of systematic terror and general repression."

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In following up their universal policy of plunder and revenge, the Germans as usual broke all the commonly accepted laws of behavior. In part of the report of the Greek Government which is entitled, "Recruitment of Manpower" there are two paragraphs which I intend to read into the record.

"One of the many problems confronting the German administration was that ofrecruiting labor.

"All males between sixteen and fifty years of age were liable to labor conscription. Strikes were declared illegal, andsevere penalties enforced for resort thereto. Persons who organized and directed a strike were liable to the death penalty. Strikers were tried by military courts.

"At first, the Germans by propaganda and various forms of indirect pressure, tried to recruit Greek labor to work within Germany. They promised high wages and better conditions of life. As this kind of voluntary recruitment failed to produce the expected results they abandoned it and confronted the workers with the dilemma either of being taken as hostages or else of being sent to Germany to work."

Analogous measures for the deportation of manpower to Germany were also applied by the fascists in Czechoslovakia. But the deportation by the fascist criminals of peaceful populations into slave labor reaches its widest application inthe territories of the Soviet Union, which they had temporarily occupied. I would like now to deal briefly on preparations which the Germans set up for utilization of forced labor in the temporarily occupied territories of the Soviet Union. Even before their attack on the Soviet Union, in a document which is known to the Tribunal as "Green Folder", USSR Exhibit 10, a whole chapter is dedicated to the problem of organizing compulsory Labor on these Soviet territories, which the fascist war criminals intended to seize. The chapter is entitled "The Utilization of the manpower of the Local Population".

This chapter (pages 17 and 18 of the "Green Folder", page 83 of the Document Folder , which is submitted to the Tribunal) lays down the principal of forced labor for the peaceful Soviet population.

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Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the sub-section "a" in the second part of that chapter, entitled "Recruitment of the Local Population" point out that:

"The workers in public utilities, in oil production works, manufacturing installations and warehouses, etc. will be forced to continue their work, under threat of punishment if necessary."

And several lines above that:

"In case of necessity, the workers will be organized into labor gangs."

The non-payment of wages for the compulsory labor of Soviet citizens was provided for already as early as the date of Goering's "Green Folder". The question of payment was reduced to the question of providing the workers with food. The fascist slave owners were only interested in maintaining the working potential of the people and nothing more.

Page 18 of the Russian text of Defendant Goering's "Green Folder" mentions at least three times, food as the only payment allowed.

I do not wish to take up the time of the Tribunal with the further analysis of this document, but will proceed with my presentation.

Defendant Goering, who lent his name to this directive for the plunder of the Soviet Union -- for how else could we refer to this document - continued to organize slave labor in the temporarily occupied territories of the Soviet Union.

As evidence I present to the Tribunal USSR Exhibit 386, a document which deals with this phase of Goering's activity. These two documents are the minutes of the conference of 7 November 1941, on the subject of "Utilising the Russians", in which Goering participated, and a covering letter.

One hundred copies of the documentwere originally prepared and mailed to the 14 addresses which Your Honors will find on page 5 of the Russian text at the end of the covering letter.

The covering letter to the minutes of this conference bears the signature of the Chief of the Military Department of the Economic Staff of the East, Dr. Rachner. The minutes of the conference in question appear to have been written by Von Norman who was evidently an official of the same organization.

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I think it will promote clarification if I read into the record certain parts of these minutes. I quote page 6 of the Russian text of the document which corresponds to page ninety-five and ninety-six in the document book:

"The conference of the 7th of November 1941, on the utilization of the Russians --

THE PRESIDENT: Has this been read before?

GENERAL ZORYA: According to information this wasn't read before. This is a document of the Soviet prosecution which was considerably publicized in May 1943 in the note of Foreign Commissar Molotov.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, if it hasn't been read you may go on.

The Reichsmarshal gave the following directive on the subject of utilising Russian manpower:

1. The presence of great manpower reserves in the Fatherland is a decisive factor for the outcome of the war. The labor capabilities of the Russian workers were proved during the construction of the gigantic Russian industry. Therefore this capability must be utilised for the good of the Reich.

In the face of such an order from the Fuehrer, whatever objections there may be must be delegated to the background.

Whatever negative sides there are to the utilization of Russian labor, must be reduced to the minimum and must become primarily the concern of the intelligence agencies and the security police.

2. Russians in the Zone of operations. Here the Russians should be used primarily in the construction of roads and railroads, for clearing work, clearing out minefields, and in the construction of airfields. A considerable portion of the German construction battalions should, in consequence, be disbanded, German skilled workmen should be sent to war industry. To dig and break stones should not be their work, but Russians' exist for it.

3. Russians in territories under the Jurisdiction of Reich Commissars and in the Government - General. The provisions under 2 above apply. Besides that, the Russians should also be used for farm work. In the absence of machines, human hands can fulfil the demands imposed by the Reich on the rural economy of the Eastern area. Further an adequate supply of local

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manpower should be assigned to the maximum exploitation of the Russian coal deposits.

4. Russians in the Territory of the Reich including the Protectorate. In the utilization of manpower, demand should determine supply. In considering the needs of manpower, two facts must be kept in mind. First, that the foreign workers who eat much but produce little are to be deported from the confines of the Reich. And secondly, that in the future the German woman must not be used as extensively in the field of labor as hitherto. Together with the Russian prisoners of war we must also utilize the manpower of the Russian civilian population".

I shall now omit a page and will ask your Honors to refer to p. 8 of the same exhibit. In the middle of the page there is section "b", entitled "Free Russian Workers. That is page 97 of the document book.

My colleague, Col. Pokrovsky, already mentioned the fact that the Hitlerites placed the civilian population in the category of the prisoners of war.

This gave them the opportunity to falsify for propaganda purposes the number of the captured Red Army soldiers in their reports on military operations, on the one hand, while simultaneously utilizing the civilian population as a source of manpower, on the other hand.

The section to which I just referred begins as follows:

"The use and the treatment of laborers should in actuality be the same as toward the Russian prisoners of war."

It should here be noted that the minutes of the conference end with the following statement by Goering: (You will find this excerpt on page 98 of the document file.)

"The mobilization of manpower and the use of the prisoners of war constitute one enterprise and should be organizationally coordinated."

On p. 7 of the minutes we come acrossthe following statement by Goering on the subject of labor conditions for Russian workers and particularlytheir wages:

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THE PRESIDENT: We will adjourn now.

(A recess was taken.)

General Zorya, can you tell the Tribunal whether you think you will be able to finish this afternoon?

GENERAL ZORYA: My intention is to finish my statement this evening, in any case.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

GENERAL ZORYA: I would like to read a statement of Goering's which concerns the condition of work of the Russian workers. As far as concerns thelabor of Russians, Goering said the following:

"The worker may receive a little pocket money."

"Since this labor costs but little to his employer, the taxation of the employer should be given special attention."

To elucidate the foregoing further, Defendant Goering makes the following suggestion:

"The utilization of the Russians in no case should lead to the disregard of the wage principle applied to the Eastern areas."

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All the financial measures here undertaken must be based on the Fuehrer's categorical instructions which consider the payment of the minimum possible wages in the East, a prerequisite of Germany being able to meet both its military expenses and its debts after the termination of the war. Any violation of these instructions should be strictly punished."

This is followed by two lines which are of interest, aside from the indictment of Defendant Goering for introducing the system of forced labor.

Having expressed himself so categorically against the "violation of the wage principle in the Eastern territories", Goering stated at this meeting as follows:

"The same naturally applies to every encouragement of the social tendencies on the Russian colonial territory."

The letter appended to the minutes of the meeting contains comments which basically do not add to the facts already presented to the Tribunal. I shall, therefore, not quote it.

I now consider necessary to submit to the Tribunal and to present it as evidence, on page 37 of the Document Book, a decree of the defendant Goering, dated 10 January 1942. I shall quote only the first eighteen lines of this decree, which are on page 101 of the Document Book:

"In the next few months the utilization of manpower will acquire still greater importance. On the one hand, the military situation necessitates drafting all young men so as to enable the army to accomplish its task. On the other hand the war industries, as well as the other phases of the war economic, and agriculture must be accorded sufficient manpower, sorely needed by them.

"The utilisation of the prisoners-of-war will play an important part in the solution of this problem. Only unified leadership can insure the success of whatever measures are to be applied in this field, and I shall use every means to attain this.

"For that reason, I granted the members of my Manpower Unit, who dealt with the question of the maximum utilization of manpower in the field of all

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measures referring to the utilization of labour..."

The criminal activity of the fascist conspirators in organizing and extending the system of forced labour later acquired such magnitude that on March 21, 1942, there was issued by Hitler a decree creating a special department to be headed by the Defendant Sauckel, who greatly developed these activities.

I shall not dwell any longer on these historical data as they have already been covered by our American, English and French colleagues.

The organic bond between Fascism and the system of forced labour is especially apparent in the role which was played in this field both by the Fascist party itself and by the entire Government machine of the Fascist state.

I should like to submit to the Tribunal a few documents which illustrate this. I present to the Tribunal as Exhibit USSR-365 a printed edition entitled "The Report on the Four-Year Plan", by the "General Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Manpower." This document is on page 101 of the Document Book. This document is dated 1 May 1941.

The first page of the report contains Hitler's decree of March 21, 1942, appointing Sauckel to the post of General Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Manpower. On the second page there is an order of the Defendant Goering dated 27 March 1942, explaining the duties of the General Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Manpower within the framework of the Four Year Plan organizational structure. Finally, on the third page of the report there is a program prepared by Sauckel for the Fuehrer's birthday in 1942.

Gentlemen, these documents have already been submitted to the Tribunal by the American prosecution and we do not wish to dwell on them, but wish to draw your attention to page 17 of the Russian translation of this document. There is a new document, in which is contained an order of the Defendant Sauckel, dated the 6th of April, 1942, order No.1. This order is entitled "Concerning Appointment of Gauleiters as Plenipotentiaries for Labor Mobilization in the Gaus under them." I quote page 118 of the document book:

"I hereby appoint the Gauleiter of the NSDAP as my plenipotentiaries for labor mobilization in the Gau districts under them.

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"Their duties are:

"1. To bring about collaborat[illegible] without friction of all agencies of the State, party, armed forces and economics which are connected with the question of labor mobilization and thereby effect a balance between the varied conceptions and requirements for the purpose of procuring the fullest exploitation in the field of labor mobilization.

"4. Examination of the results of the employment of all workers, male and female, from other countries.

"Special regulations will be issued concerning this.

"5. Examination of authorized feeding, housing and treatment of all labor from foreign countries and prisoners of war employed in labor."

In his program for the mobilization of labor, prepared -- as I have already pointed out -- by the Defendant Sauckel for Hitler's birthday in 1942, the Defendant wrote -- page 4 of the German text:

"4. The General Plenipotentiary for Labor Mobilization will therefore use with the help of a personal staff of assistants the existing party, State and economic institutions and assure the quickest success to the program, through the cooperation and goodwill of all concerned.

"5. The General Plenipotentiary for Labor Mobilization has therefore, with the consent of the Fuehrer and the knowledge of the Reichsmarshal of Greater Germany and the Director of the Party Chancellory appoint all the District Chiefs as his plenipotentiaries in the German Districts of the National Socialist Party.

"6. The Plenipotentiaries for Labor Mobilization are using the offices of the Party in their Districts. The chiefs of the highest offices will assist and advise the District Chiefs in all matters concerning the Labor Mobilization.

"The most important for that purpose would be the following:

"The President of the Land-Labor Office.

"The Trustee for Labor.

"The Leader of the Peasants.

"The Economic Adviser of the District.

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"The District Superintendent of the German Labor Front.

"The Leader of the Womanhood of the District.

"The Leader of the Hitler Youth of the Region.

"The highest representative of the interior and general administration, and of the office for Agriculture."

The Gauleiters are therefore in a position to assure the best coordination in their districts taking part in the measures for the utilization of manpower.

In this document Sauckel addressed the Gauleiters to beg them to give him all help. I would like to draw your Honors' attention to one of Sauckel's assertions as mentioned in this document. He mentions the decision of Hitler to send to the Reich in order to help the German peasant women, four hundred to five hundred thousand selected healthy and strong girls from the Eastern territories, to relieve German women and girls from labor duty.

Apparently in order to add weight to the argument for the measure, Sauckel wrote:

"Please believe me as an old fanatical National Socialist Gauleiter that ultimately there could not have been a different decision."

The importance of the part played by the Fascist Party in the organization of compulsory slave labor and the extent of thoroughness to which it went into the matter, is shown by the following document which I am submitting to the Tribunal in evidence as USSR Exhibit 383. This document is a letter of the Defendant Sauckel dated September 8, 1942, and is entitled "Extraordinary Measures of the General Plenipotentiaries for the Utilization of Manpower in connection with Deportation of Eastern Women Workers to Relieve Housewives with Large Families in Towns and Villages."

In the course of my presentation I shall have the opportunity to refer to this document. In the meantime I wish to draw your attention to the passage which has direct bearing on the role of the Fascist Party in introducing this measure. On Page 3 of the Russian text of the document which I hereby submit to the Tribunal, there is a passage entitled "Organization of the Selection of Households." I am quoting the text of this passage:

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"Applications made on the attached form for obtaining an Eastern woman worker for household duties --

THE PRESIDENT: Does it matter whether these women were brought into a house where they ought not to have been brought, and whether a particular German housewife was entitled to a woman worker or not? The whole point, it would seem, is whether they were deported -- and forcibly deported.

GENERAL ZORYA: Mr. President, I had just in view to summarize this part of my statement which you just mentioned. However, I would like to show the part which the Fascist Party played in organizing slave labor inside Germany and namely in the distribution of those Soviet citizens which were transported to Germany. All this is contained in the documents which I meant to submit to the Tribunal. All the rest which concerns the regime which has already been described by the American and British prosecutions I will not dwell upon.

I would nevertheless wish to dwell on this part of the document which says that application for obtaining Eastern woman workers for household duties are to be examined by the Labor Department as to the extent of the need of the household in question and are then to be forwarded for approval to the corresponding leader of NSDAP.

"Should the district leader object to granting a woman worker to the household, the Labor Department declines to send an Eastern woman worker to the applicant, or consequently declines the permission for the employment of such, the

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refusal need not be motivated and the decision is final."

There is an enclosure which is on page 129 of the document book. The labor direction upon receiving an application for slave workers turned to the corresponding instance of the Fascist Party with statement that it intended utilizing an Eastern worker in a household and they handed in an application form. This form also contains a statement or not it recommendes use of a woman worker in the household.

I request the Tribunal to pay attention to the following document which is anappendix and is entitled, "Memo for Housewives Regarding Employment of Eastern Woman workers in Urban and Rural Households." I am not dwelling upon it in detail, but only draw the attention of the Tribunal to the sub-title of this memo, which is on page 133 of the document book.

It is said that this form is published by the General Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Manpower in agreement with the leader of the Party Chancellery and other corresponding authorities. Thus we know that millions of foreign slaves languished in Germany. But now we know that any German could become a slave-owner with the sanction and under the supervision of the Fascist Party. Apparently this also constituted one of the elements of the "new" Fascist order in Europe.

I deem it indispensable for refer also to the order of the Defendant Goering, dated 27 March 1942. This order concerns the execution of the Fuehrer's decree regarding the office of the General Plenipotentiary for Labof Mobilization. I do not submit this document, as it is already at the disposal of the Tribunal, being presented by the American prosecution.

"The General Plenipotentiary for Labor Mobilization is hereby authorized, for the purpose of carrying out his tasks, to exercise the power which the Fuehrer has delegated to him to issue directives to the highest Reich authorities and their subordinate officers, to Party authorities and to Party subdivisions and associated organizations."

This order of the Defendant Goering does not only determine the special part of the fascist Party in the execution of the compulsory labor system, but also emphasizes the extraordinary powers of Defendant Sauckel in this field.

The documents to which I have been referring until now serve as a basis for the Soviet Prosecution in their statement that the fascist party was the

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center of all measures for the organization of compulsory slave labor.

I wish to deal now with the part of the German High Command in the organization of compulsory labor and deportation into slavery of Soviet people. I submit to the Tribunal, therefore, as USSR Exhibit 367, an OKH document regarding (I am using the terminology of the document itself) the "Mobilization of Russian manpower for the Reich." I beg the Tribunal to refer to page 178 of the document book.

First of all, let us ascertain the source from which this document emanates. In the upper left-hand corner of the first page you will find "High Command of the Land Army, General Staff of the Land Army, Chief of Supply and Administration, Section of Military Administration (economic)." In the upper right-hand corner: "Headquarters of the High Command of the Land Army, 10 May 1942," and again the stamp "secret". Then, following the title quoted above:

"Authority: Order of the High Command of the Land Army,
No. P-2877/42, Secret, dated April 25, 1942.
Order of the High Command of the Land Army,
P-3158, 1942, secret, May 6, 1942."

Thus, the document which I intend to quote here emanates from the OKH and is based on previously issued orders of the OKH. At the end of this document there is a list of addresses. I will not quote the document in full. This list includes the commander of the Armies in the East, and also the Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Manpower and Armament Administration, etc. This list of addresses leaves no doubt as to who were the executors of the orders contained in the submitted document. The real executors were the military authorities.

Let us now turn to the contents of this document. First of all, what was the purpose of the OKH when it issued this letter? The reply to this question is contained in the first paragraph of the document, which I shall now read into the record. I summarize this quotation:

The General Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Manpower appointed by the Fuehrer, Gauleiter Sauckel, in connection with the growing requirements of the Reich in military technique and armaments, and in order to satisfy the

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requirements of the German war industry and of the entire war economy, is ordered to speed up the mobilization and importation of Russian manpower into the Reich, as well as to increase considerably the number of laborers thus mobilized.

For the realization of these mobilization measures which are to be carried out in all the occupied eastern territories, including the real front and army districts, special measures have to be introduced by officers in charge of the utilization of manpower and mobilization commissions. These mobilization measures are not to be limited to city regions. It is also imperative to embrace on a large scale the city population which migrated to villages, as well as local village population.

I am quoting page 139 of the document book, where it is stated:

"The immediate necessities of the army must be satisfied in the first place. The scale of the necessities of the army must be determined by the staffs of the army commanders of the troops in these districts. However, one must take into consideration the acute lack of manpower in the Reich, and therefore must verify accurately the needs --

THE PRESIDENT: Isn't it sufficient to say that this document provides for the speeding up of the mobilization of manpower and slave labor for the purposes of the necessities of the Reich? Does it do anything more than that?

GENERAL ZORYA: Yes, youare quite right. One must add that this document contains orders not only to satisfy the needs of the army, but also to extract the personal intervention of the army to thus organize a corresponding apparatus, in order to regulate this manpower supply.

I pass on to the next document which I would like to submit to the Tribunal --page 23 of my statement.

It would be a mistake to think that the OKH gave orders only of such general character. In July 1941, the Defendant Keitel learned that the subdepartments of the Organization Todt in the Lvov Region paid the local workers wages of 24 rubles. Keitel was indignant. Todt immediately received a respective reprimand. And so we come to the next document, which I present to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 366.

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The Reichsminister Todt referred to the fact that General Fieldmarshal Keitel expressed his displeasure that the subdepartments of the Organization Todt in the Lvov District pay wages to the local workers up to the amount of 25 rubles, and Todt explains that he had explained in detail to all members of the staff that the rules for the utilization of manpower in Russian territory were different from those in Western Europe.

Further in this document Todt categorically prohibits the paying of wages to inhabitants who are mobilized for labor, and he concludes this document in the following terms:

"No compensation shall be given to the firms for wages not in conformity with the above regulations.

"This order is brought to the attention of all the executive centers and to all firms concerned. Signed: Todt."

The German Government and the military command ordered the mobilization of peaceful Soviet for tasks which endangered life. This was said by Goering at a conference.

I now submit to the Tribunal document USSR 106, signed by the Fuehrer on the 8th of September, 1942. This directive concerns the utilization of slave labor for the erection of fortifications in the eastern theater of operations. This document comes from the German archives captured by the Allied Armies in the West. In an annex to this document it is stated that this document is top secret and should be returned to the top of the Army and destroyed after reading.

On the second page of the document we find the order of Hitler -- 8th of September, 1942:

"There heavy defensive battles in the area of Army Groups Centre and North cause me to make known my views on certain fundamental essentials of defense."

The following paragraphs concern general principles of defense, which do not interest us. On page 148 of the document book is the following extract:

"The enemy indulges in the construction of positions to a far greater extent than do our own troops. I know that it will be contested that the enemy disposes more labor than we do for construction of such positions. It

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is therefore an absolute necessity that we should make use, with all possible energy, of all prisoners of war and local labor for these tasks. Only in this respect and by this means can the German soldier be spared all labor on defensive work behind the front lines, in order that

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he may be left for his own duties and kept fresh to perform them. Frequently sufficient ruthlessness is not being employed in this direction, nor is the ruthlessness of a type demanded by the present battle for survival. In every way it is far more humane to drive the Russian population to work by employing every means than to sacrifice our most precious possession, the blood of our own people.

This order is signed by Hitler.

Units of the Red Army also captured a decree of the German occupation authorities, which referred to an order of the defendant Keitel on forced labor in combat zones. This document is submitted as USSR Exhibit 407. I would like to quote a few excerpts. First, page 149 of the document book:

"Order.

"Referring to an order of the front commanders regarding compulsory labor service in the newly occupied Eastern Territories, and dated the 6th of November, 1943, all women born in 1924 and 1925 are hereby mobilized for labor in Germany."

Article 5 of this order foresees that those who do not present themselves on the given dates shall be considered as saboteurs and will be held responsible in accordance with military law.

The High Command of the German armed forces and the defendant Keitel took a personal part in the execution of this system of slave labor, and for that objective they adopted, on a large scale, all the war mechanisms of Germany.

I beg you, Your Honors, to refer to the document which I am now presenting as USSR Exhibit 381.

THE PRESIDENT: Was that last order that you gave out Keitel's order? It apparently is the Chief of the General Staff of the Military Command.

GENERAL ZORYA: This is not an order of Keitel. This document which was submitted as USSR Exhibit 381 is entitled, "Instructions to Economic Organizations for the Utilization of Manpower in the East."

THE PRESIDENT: I thought you said that was by Keitel.

GENERAL ZORYA: These instructions emanated from Sauckel's administration.

THE PRESIDENT: Go on.

GENERAL ZORYA: The preceding document which I submitted was an order of Keitel.

Now I wish to speak of this order. I beg you to pay attention to the date on which the instructions were issued, the 26th of January, 1942.

In this directive -- on page 150 of the document book -- it is stated that: "The hopes which the Reichsmarshal places in the department for the utilization of labor should be justified at all costs. The task of the economic organization and the departments for the utilization of manpower in the East consists of bridging, during the coming months, the gap in national economy -- which arose owing to the departure into the army of men of younger conscription age -- by means of the universal recruitment of Russian labor.

"This is of decisive importance in the war and must therefore be achieved. If the number of volunteers does not come up to expectations, then, according to orders, most severe measures should be taken during the recruitment."

The American prosecution has submitted to the Tribunal a document of the Soviet prosecution, USSR Exhibit 151. I do not wish to quote this document again, but only consider necessary --

DR. NELTE (counsel for defendant Keitel): Mr. President, you have just now asked about the document, and the prosecutor has presented a document by Keitel. If it is a question of the same document, then it would be USSR 407, and that is signed by a local commander and by a chief of the Labor Office.

Is this document the same which has been presented to you as USSR 407?

THE PRESIDENT: I have already pointed out, have I not, that it was not by Keitel?

DR. NELTE: I beg your pardon?

THE PRESIDENT: I have pointed out that it was not by Keitel.

DR. NELTE: Yes, sir, but the prosecutor has repeatedly said that this document 407 represents an order by Keitel. That is why I wanted to verify it.

GENERAL ZORYA: Perhaps the Tribunal will allow me to clarify this subject. Apparently a misunderstanding arose from the translation.

I said that troops of the Red Army had seized a German order, and added, an order of the German occupational authorities which referred to an order of Keitel regarding forced labor in front areas. This order begins, "According to an order of the Chief of the General Staff of the Military Command regarding compulsory labor service, dated the 6th of November, 1943", and so forth.

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I beg the Tribunal to refer again to a document which I submitted previously, the document of the High Command of the Land Forces. This order referred to corresponding orders of the Supreme Command of the German Army regarding questions of mobilization of labor in the East.

This order of the provisional authorities, which I submitted a s USSR Exhibit 407, refers to one of these orders. It is quite clearly stated that it is according to orders of the Chief of the General Staff. That is why I submitted this document.

THE PRESIDENT: I am afraid I really don't understand you. What I have got in the translation before me is this:

"The units of the Red Army captured a copy of the German decree which mentions Keitel's order on the forced labor in the combat zone.

"This document is submitted as Exhibit USSR something or other.

"It may be useful to read a few excerpts of it.

"By order of the Chief of the General Staff of the Military Command of 6/11/43, concerning the compulsory labor service in the combat zone"--and then it goes on to deal with persons who don't present themselves being considered saboteurs.

Well, I thought you were saying that the Chief of the General Staff of the Military Command was Keitel. He was the Chief of the OKW. Are you still saying that he was the Chief of the Military Command?

GENERAL ZORYA: I quote only that which is in the document: "By order of the Chief of the General Staff of the Military Command concerning compulsory labor." That is in the document, and I do not wish to add anything.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it is worth taking any more time over it.

GENERAL ZORYA: I will now go back to that document which was submitted to the Tribunal by the American prosecution, and which was entitled, "Directive for the Treatment of Foreign Labor on Reich Territory." I will not quote this document in detail; I would only like to stress that it established a special regime for the foreign workers.

It created a strict region for the Eastern workers. Thus, the Eastern workers were forbidden to visit churches; they were forbidden to visit public buildings; and they were obliged to wear special insignia, which was of blue color, with the word "ost" in white letters.

In the memorandum to housewives regarding the employment of Eastern workers in rural households it was stated that: "Every alien, according to the personal conduct and political convictions of every German, judges our national moral standard. The alien workers must see in the housewife and the members of her family worthy representatives of the German people."

I proceed further:

"If, in certain circumstances, German and Eastern female domestic workers are employed in the same household, the German domestic workers must be given mainly tasks of serving the family and must also be given the supervision of the Eastern woman worker."

The German domestic workers must be in every sense in the privileged position.

Paragraph 2 established a system of political supervision over the

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Eastern workers. General conditions of work did not extend to the Eastern workers. Their labor was not regulated in any way. This was expressed in Paragraph 4 of the same memorandum.

"Eastern women workers employed in householdsin the Reich are subject to specific working conditions. German regulations about working conditions and regulations about working conditions and rules for the safeguarding of labor refer to them only in so far as special instructions are given on this point."

The character of these special instructions can be seen in Paragraph 9, Section "B", of the memorandum:

"No right for leisure is given to Eastern women workers. Eastern women workers have not the right to leave the household, except when on duty connected with the needs of the household. Visits to restaurants, cinemas, theatres and all public institutions are prohibited."

In Paragraph 10 of the memorandum it is pointed out:

"Eastern women workers employed in households are mobilized for an indefinite period."

Paragraph 12 of the memorandum states that:

"The Germans must not share a room with the Eastern woman workers."

Paragraph 14 states that:

"Clothing as a rule is not supplied to Eastern female workers."

These two documents just mentioned by me - the instructions for the treatment of foreign workers and the memorandum on the employment of Eastern female workers - reflect the inhuman conditions of work for the forcibly mobilized Soviet persons.

The Soviet Prosecution has at its disposal numerous documents, the evidence of persons, who themselves experienced the terror of Fascist slavery, and reading of all of these documents would take too much time.

The Soviet Government had at its disposal, already in the early phases of the war against Fascist Germany, many proofs of the crimes of the Fascist conspirators in this field.

The first document to be published by the Soviet Government is the note of the People, Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Molotov, dated 16 January 1942, which was presented to the Tribunal by the Soviet Prosecution as USSR Exhibit 51(2), and this note stated that:

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"The civilian population was forcibly deported for compulsory labor, who were proclaimed 'prisoners of war' and treated as such. They were interned in camps, and the actual employees of these camps where peaceful citizens were subjected to intolerable privation were named. Among these internees were old men, women, and children. The food was completely inadequate, and twenty-five to thirty people died every day."

In the same note we read that:

"After the occupation of Kiev, the Germans drove into slave labor all the civilian population from eleven to sixteen years old, irrespective of their profession, their sex, state of health or nationality. People

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who were too ill to stand on their feet were fined fifty rubles by the Germans for every day of work they missed.

"In Kharkov the German invaders decided to subject the local Ukrainian intellectuals to particular indignities. On the 5th of November, 1941, all actors were ordered to appear at the Schevchenko Theatre for registration. When they had gathered, they were surrounded by German soldiers to harness them to carts and go along the most frequented streets to the river for water."

The second document of the Soviet Government was the Foreign Commissar Molotov's note, dated the 27th of April, 1942. This note is submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 51 (3). Section 3 of this note is entitled:

"The establishment of a regime of slavery and serfdom in the occupied districts of the USSR and the abduction of civilians as 'prisoners'".

This note states that:

"In the Ukraine and Byelorussia the Germans introduced a sixteen hour workday. In many cases without any retribution and in some cases with absolutely very low wages."

In the secret instructions entitled "On the Current Tasks in the Eastern Regions", captured by Red Army troops at the beginning of March, 1942, the chief of the "Military Economic Inspectorate of the Central Front", Lieutenant General Weigang, admits that:

"It has proved impossible to maintain industrial production with the labor of semi-starved and semi-clad people", that "the devaluation of money and the commodity crisis coincide with a dangerous lack of confidence in the German authorities on the part of the local population"; and that this is "fraught with danger to tranquillity in the occupied regions, wholly impermissible in the rear of the combatant troops." The German general points out in this document to call these occupied regions "our new Eastern colonial possessions."

Acknowledging that the complete collapse of industrial production in the occupied districts has led to mass unemployment, the German General Weigang issued the following orders for speeding up the forcible dispatch of the

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Russian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and other local workers to Germany:

"Only the dispatch to Germany of several million picked Russian workers out of the inexhaustible reserve of able-bodied, healthy and strong people in the occupied Eastern territories can solve the urgent problem of meeting the unparalleled demand for labor power, thereby coping with the catastrophic insufficiency of labor in Germany."

In order to seize units of the Red Army, the Command of the Third German Tank Troops was ordered to mobilize the entire civilian population of the occupied districts, and it was stated that this forced labor was to be gratuitous.

"By this unpaid labor the population would redeem the acts of sabotage it has already committed as well as the acts of sabotage which may be committed by them in the future."

In Kaluga on the 20th of November, 1941, an announcement was posted with a signature of the German Commandant, Major Portzius, which states:

"1. Citizens working slothfully or not working the designated number of hours will be subject to a monetary fine. In the event of non-payment, delinquents will be subjected to corporal punishment.

"2. Citizens assigned to a job and not reporting for work will be subjected to corporal punishment and will not receive food rations.

"3. Citizens evading work in general will, in addition, be expelled from Kaluga. Citizens afraid of work will be attached to labor detachments and columns, and billetted in barracks; they will be put to heavy labor."

This note expressed that:

"With regard to the farmers of the occupied regions, the system of forced labor coincided with the seizure of land and the transfer of the collective farms and the land of the individual farms to the German proprietors. This was established by a Land Law which was promulgated at the end of February, 1942, by the Hitlerite leader of the occupied territories in the East, Reichsleiter Rosenberg."

I skip a few pages of my statement and pass to the note of Kommissar Molotov, which is on page 39 of my statement, which was published a year after

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the notice I just mentioned.

On the 11th of May, 1943, the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Molotov, sent to all Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries of the countries with which the USSR had at the time diplomatic relations, a note "Concerning the Wholesale Forcible Transportation of Soviet Civilians to German Fascist Slavery and Concerning the Responsibility Borne for this Crime by the Germn Authorities." This note is submitted to the Tribunal as evidence under No. USSR 51(4).

I consider it necessary to read a few quotations from this note. On page 165 of the document book there is a reference to a declaration of Goering of 1941, which has already been mentioned by me. I will not again repeat all that Goering said at that conference. I will only stress that Molotov's note points out that Goering issued an order not to spare for the people but for Germany and to handle them in the most cruel manner.

There is a quotation which is in point 4.

"The main principle must be swiftness and severity. Only the following punitive measures can be adopted: Deprivation of food and the death penalty by the decision of the Military Tribunal."

It is stated in Molotov's note that the administration of Defendant Sauckel is adopting a very large mobilization of the utilization of labor,

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The agents of Sauckel proceeded to register the entire able-bodied population in the occupied districts of the USSR. The citizens thus registered were ordered "voluntarily" to go to work for Germany. As there were hardly any volunteers found, the Germans ordered measures of compulsion to be adopted.

On the 31st of March 1942, Sauckel issued the following order to his subordinates:

"The recruiting, for which you are responsible, must be speeded up by every available means, including the stern application of the principle of forced labor."

The Soviet Government is in possession of the full text of a report by the Chief of the Political Police and Security Service under the Chief of the SS in Kharkov, headed "The situation in the City of Kharkov from July 23 to September 9, 1942."

"The recruiting of labor power," states this document, "is causing the competent bodies disquietude, for the population is displaying extreme reluctance to go to work in Germany. The situation at present is that everybody does his utmost to evade enlistment. There can be no longer any question of voluntary departure for Germany."

Gentlemen, I must stress that the Defendant Sauckel, as General Plenipotentiary for the Utilization of Labor, actively pursued criminal activity, as is pointed out in Commissar Molotov's note. On the 31st of March 1942, Sauckel went to his subordinates a telegraphic order regarding the utilization of Russians. I submit this telegram as evidence, USSR Exhibit 382. In this telegram Sauckel writes:

"The rate of mobilization must be increased immediately and under all circumstances in order that in the shortest possible time, that is to say, by April, a three-fold increase in the number of workers sent off should be insured

Sauckel's efforts were appreciated by the Defendant Goering at the time when he was Plenipotentiary for the Four Year Plan. I refer now to the conference which Goering held on the 6th of August 1942. This Document has been submitted to the Tribunal as USSR Exhibit 170. I beg you torefer to Pages 12 and 13 of the document file. Goering stated --

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THE PRESIDENT: (Interposing) All this was read the other day. The actual words were read the other day.

GENERAL ZORYA: You are quite right, Mr. President. My colleague, Mr. Sheinin, who read into the record this document, did not read into the record this particular passage.

THE PRESIDENT: We think that he read the passage which you have got set out in your document: "I do not wish to praise Gauleiter Sauckel; he does not need it." He certainly referred to the passage which you have just summarized, about Lohse.

GENERAL ZORYA: I do not wish to argue, Mr. President. I believe he did not read this part into the record, but if you like, we will not read it.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe you are right. I don't know.

GENERAL ZORYA: I will quote this very briefly:

"I do not wish to praise Gauleiter Sauckel; he does not need it. But what he has done in a short time to collect workers quickly from the whole of Europe and supply them to our undertakings is a unique achievement of its kind.

"I must say to all you gentlemen that if each of you used in your sphere of activity a tenth of the energy used by Gauleiter Sauckel, the tasks laid upon you would indeed be easily carried out. This is my conviction and in no way fine words."

I return again to the note of the Peoples Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Molotov, dated the 11th of May 1943. This note quotes data concerning the number of Soviet persons who were deported to Germany.

This note states that in the deportation of Soviet people to Germany, slavery was accompanied nearly everywhere by repressive measures. In Poltava, for instance, the Germans shot 65, and in many other towns these executions and shootings and hangings were adopted on various scales.

THE PRESIDENT: I understood from you at the beginning of your speech this afternoon that you were going to finish this afternoon. It is now five minutes past 5:00. Is there any chance of your finishing?

GENERAL ZORYA: If I had not been interrupted by defense counsel for ten minutes I would not have needed more than ten minutes to finish the statement.

THE PRESIDENT: How long do you anticipate you will take now?

GENERAL ZORYA: A maximum of ten minutes.

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THE PRESIDENT: Very well.

GENERAL ZORYA: This note states that the Soviet citizens deported from the territories occupied by the Germans offered armed resistance to their slave-drivers, and that in the Baltic, Ukraine, the Byelo-Russian districts many reports came in regarding the mass flight of inhabitants of partisan troops. The increase on the part of the movement as relative to these measures was pressed with anguish by many German commandos.

This note quotes further a series of testimonies of Soviet people who had escaped German slavery. I will only quote one of these.

Varvara Bakhtina of the village of Nikolayevka, stated:

"In Kursk we were driven into a cattle truck. We were not allowed to leave. The German sentinels beat us ceaselessly. In the town were subjected to a medical examination. The soldiers forced us to undress. The nearer we came to Germany the emptier became our train. At every station we had to throw out ill or dyingpeople. In Germany we were shut up into a camp with Soviet prisoners of war. There was a clearing in the wood which was surrounded by barbed wire. Four days later we were detailed. I, together with the other girls, were sent to a war factory."

The third part of this report is a description of the regime which was that of the Soviet workers in German slavery. This part of the statement also mentions the statement of Goering. Goering states that the Soviet person is not very spoiled and therefore it is easy to feed him and to satisfy his needs.

The statement also quoted articles which described conditions in Germany It also mentioned a number of letters sent to Soviet soldiers at the front. I will quote only one of these letters. On the body of Wilhelm Bock, a dead Soviet soldier, we find a letter to his mother:

"Many Russian women and girls are working at the 'Astra Werke' factories. They are compelled to work 14 and more hours a day. Of course they receive no pay whatever They go to and from the factory under escort. The Russians are so exha sted that they literally drop to the ground. The guards of ten whip them. They have no right to complain about the bad food

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or ill treatment. The other day my neighbor obtained a servant. She paid some money at the office. She was given opportunity to choose any woman she pleased fr om a number who had recently been driven here from Russia."

The letter mentioned mass cases of suicide of Russian girls and men.

This note ends with the declaration of the Soviet Government, which states that it places responsibility for atrocities in this domain on the leading Hitlerite officials and the High Command of the German Army.

"The Soviet Government also considers responsible for these crimes all Hitlerite officials who are engaged in recruiting, abducting, maintaining in camps, selling into slavery, and inhuman exploiting of Soviet civilians who have been forcibly transported from their native land to Germany. Inview of the above, the Soviet Government holds that stern responsibility, equalto that of the chiefs of Hitlerite Germany, should be borne by such already exposed criminals as the General Plenipotentiary for the Utilizationof Manpower, Gauleiter Fritz Sauckel, as well as the principal inspirer of the Nazi slave driving, Alfred Rosenberg, who is Reichsminister for the Eastern Occupied Territory.

"The Soviet Government expresses the conviction that all the governments concerned are unanimous on the point that the Hitler government and its agents must bear full responsibility and receive stern punishment for the monstrous crimes they have committed, for the privation and suffering they have inflicted upon millions of civilians who have been forcibly transported to German Fascist slavery."

This is the end of Commissar Molotov's note, and allow me to close my statement with these words.

THE PRESIDENT: The Tribunal will now adjourn.

(The Tribunal adjourned until 23 February, 1946, at 1000 hours.)